



## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN CREATION CARE SEASON

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

**Saturday - 19 November, 5pm & Sunday - 20 November, 11am, 2022**

The Psalmist declares, *“The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (19:1-4).*

Creation never ceases to proclaim, but do we hear? We commit to “Listen to the Voice of Creation.” By listening to the voice of all creation, humans from all cultures and sectors of life can be joined in our call to care for Earth, our common home.

The burning bush is the symbol for this Season of Creation. Today, Creation cries out as forests crackle in flames, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of unheeded climate changes.

In contrast, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God’s presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice.

Prelude: *"May Jesus Christ Be Praised"*, music J. Barnby, arr Lenny Seidel

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Allison Cornell**

Opening Song: “*I the Lord of Sea and Sky*”

**G#671**

Presider: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

**People: The Holy One’s love is new every morning.**

**Gloria: *Canticle 12: A Song of Creation part II* (spoken)**

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,

and all that grows upon the earth, \*

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*

O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*

and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*

praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Amen.

Presider: God our Creator be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

**The Collect:**

**All: God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen**

*(Please be seated for the reading of the lessons)*

## **First Lesson: A reading from the book of Genesis 9:8-17**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

Reader The Word of the Lord

**People Thanks be to God**

**The Psalm:** *Read in unison*

### **Psalm 96**

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the  
peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to  
be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are

- idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.
- 6 Honour and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctu-  
ary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the  
peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his  
name;  
bring an offering, and come into his  
courts.

- 9 Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
tremble before him, all the earth.
- 10 Say among the nations, 'The Lord is  
king!  
The world is firmly established; it  
shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity.'
- 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the  
earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- 12 let the field exult, and everything in  
it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing  
for joy
- 13 before the Lord; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteous-  
ness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

### **Second Lesson: A reading from the book 1 Corinthians 10:23-31**

'All things are lawful', but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful', but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of others. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience, for 'the earth and its fullness are the Lord's.' If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, 'This has been offered in sacrifice', then do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I mean the other's conscience, not your own. For why should my liberty be subject to the judgement of someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why should I be denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

**Gospel Lesson:**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
**Matthew 24: 32-39**

**People: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**SERMON**

## **Nicene Creed** *(Traditional)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People:**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

**Leader:** Lord, there is no pain in our hearts or in our planet that you do not know, for you have touched the lowest places on earth.

**People:** **Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ, the loss of all the beauty that is passing away.**

**Leader:** There is no place in the heavens that cannot be touched by your resurrection presence, for you fill all things.

**People:** **Give us strength in your victory over death to grow into your way of love, which does not despair but keeps sowing seeds of hope and making signs of wholeness.**

**Leader:** In you, Lord Christ, all the parts of the body fit together joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is provided. Each part working together, promotes the body's growth, building itself up in love.

**People: Teach us to recognize our interconnectedness with all things. Teach us to grow with each other and all living creatures through love.**

Leader: Let us be at peace within ourselves.

**People: Let us accept that we are profoundly loved and need never be afraid.**

Leader: Let us be aware of the source of being that is common to us all and to all living creatures.

**People: Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion towards ourselves and towards all living beings.**

Leader: Realizing that we are all nourished from the same source of life, may we so live that others are not deprived of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

**People: Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be a cause of suffering to one another.**

Leader: With humility let us pray for the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.

**People: May God kindle in us the fire of love to awaken us and give back humbly and generously to the world. Amen.**

### **The Confession**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.

*(Short Silence may be kept.)*

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

**People: We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the Cosmos. We have become estranged from the movements of the earth. We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

**People: We have sought only our own security. We have exploited for our own ends. We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

**People: Now the land is becoming barren. And the waters are often poisoned. And the air is heavily polluted.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **Now the forests are burning and dying. And the creatures are disappearing. And humans are despairing.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. Help us to remember who we are. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on us forgive us all our sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### **Offertory**

Presider: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory music “*All Earth is Hopeful*”

See Insert **ELM#266**

Doxology #380 vs 3 (*Peoples’ offerings are brought to the altar*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him, above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

**The Great Thanksgiving - *Creation Care Liturgy, Scottish Episcopal Church***

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider*

*Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever.*



*From the beginning you created all things and all your works echo with music of your praise. All things are of your making, all times and seasons obey your laws. You made us in your image. You give us breath and speech, so that now we give you thanks for setting us as stewards over the whole world in all its wonder.*

*Therefore we praise you day by day for the marvels of your power, creativity, and natural beauty: along with all the earth — united with heaven to sing a new song of creation:*

**Sanctus**

**#S130**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might (x2)  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest (x2)**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest (x2)**

*The Presider continues*

*Glory and thanksgiving be to you, God our creator, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. Christ is your holy Wisdom, existing beyond time, present at the creation.*

*Through Christ you revealed yourself in the world, and bring your saving work to its completion. Obedient to your will, he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world.*

*On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end.*

*At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

*After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

*We now recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.*

**Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

*Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us (+) and upon this bread and this wine (+), that, overshadowed by the Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.*

*Help us to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. AMEN.*

*And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,*

### **Lord's Prayer: (Traditional)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

*Fraction Anthem*

*(G#827, refrain only)*

**Taste and See, Taste and See,  
The goodness of the Lord  
O Taste and See, taste and see  
The goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

### **Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

*(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. Come to the rail and extend your hand to receive the bread, wait for the chalice to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, then consume it. If you prefer not to have the wine, you may eat the bread when you receive it. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)*

Communion Hymn: *“Morning Has Broken”*

**#8**

## **Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing**

**Post Communion Prayer**    *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider    Let us Pray

**All:**    **Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace, plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Benediction/Blessing:**

Presider: *God the Creator, who loves us and gave this world to be our home, God the Redeemer, who loves us and by dying and rising again leads the way to freedom, God the Sanctifier, who spreads the divine love in our hearts, God the three in one and one in three, bless you and keep you now and forever.*

**Amen.**

Closing Song:    “*Oh, Sing to God Above!*”

*See Insert ELW#555*

### **Dismissal:**

Deacon:    People of St. Stephen’s, what does God call us to do?

**People:**    **We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon:    *Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God’s Spirit.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**People**    **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

Postlude:: “Be The Centre“, *music Michael Frye, arr. Garrett Parker*

*Please, join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall after worship.*

